

Cynthia Kostick  
5 Third Avenue  
Seymour, CT 06483  
203-881-8539

Testimony in Support of S.B. No. 318, "An Act Concerning Private School Transportation"  
Before the Education Committee

March 2, 2016

As a parent of a student at St. Mary / St. Michael School in Derby, I support S.B. No. 318.

We chose St. Mary / St. Michael School because it offers a quality Catholic education for our children.

The number of Catholic schools is dwindling. Parents who desire to send their children to a Catholic school are being forced to drive their kids to school because there is no bus service. There used to be bus service from our town to St. Mary / St. Michael but no longer. I do not mind driving my children to school, but if our car should break down, how would they get to school?

Further, student drop-off / pick-up at school by the parents adds to traffic and congestion on already busy roads already filled with school buses and pedestrians, all coming at the same time. Personally, I feel unsafe at times trying to navigate onto the busy street, especially at the end of the day.

A bus would be safer for my children and for everybody. Buses are equipped with stop signs and lights which warn people to stop. Careless drivers and pedestrians will be more likely to heed a bus than a parent-driven car trying to navigate through.

Allowing a reimbursement to towns who voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students that live out of town will help St. Mary / St. Michael School because people in the surrounding towns will be more likely to consider sending their children there if the transportation problem is taken care of. Not all parents have constant access to a reliable car. Baby-sitting is also an issue. Many parents are forced to load all their children in a car in order to drive the children to school, even if there is an infant or one of the children is sick. These factors make parents think twice before applying to a school that would give their children a real quality education.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support S.B. No. 318.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Kostick